

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Topic for Discussion at DCI Breakfast Meeting  
with Secretary Weinberger on 16 July 1982

1. Ethiopian/Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) incursions into Somalia in the past week have served to emphasize that the Somali regime is in a state of military, political and economic weakness. The Somalis clearly view the taking of Goldogob and Balenbale by enemy forces as a crisis of major proportions. Although a full-scale attack by Ethiopia is not likely, the Ethiopian objectives of keeping the Somalis off-balance and destabilizing the Siad regime will be achieved. Further, the long-range Ethiopian goal of bringing down the Siad government from internal pressures will have been advanced.

2.  25X1  
the Saudi Arabian government is deeply concerned about the Somali situation and about the survivability of Siad. The Saudis are actively exploring potential actions which might be taken in Somalia to lend stability to the region. Saudi officials have referred privately to concerns that the U.S. may have subtly shifted support away from Siad. The Somalis themselves have fueled this belief by acknowledging that U.S. assistance has been slow in coming and less substantial than anticipated.

3. Siad has recently been in touch with Ambassador Petterson to appeal for quick delivery of military assistance to enable Somali forces to contain the Ethiopian invaders. Additionally, he has appealed to the DCI through the Chief of the Somali National Security Service to:

a. encourage the USG to press for a cessation of hostilities and a withdrawal of foreign troops from Somalia;

b. seek the expeditious delivery of defensive weapons to Somalia;

c. help develop political support for Somalia among friendly countries; and

d. encourage the USG to make a clear public exposition of its position in the Horn and its views on the current attacks as a signal to Ethiopia that the U.S. is not wavering in its commitment to Somalia.

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